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APPLICATION FOR GRANTS UNDER THE

Indian Education Discretionary Grant Programs—Native Youth Community Program ${\it CFDA\#84.299A}$

PR/Award # S299A220009

Gramts.gov Tracking#: GRANT13596444

OMB No. 1810-0722, Expiration Date: 06/30/2023

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PR/Award # S299A220009

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Stilwell Public Schools 2022

Abstract

for a future career.

Stilwell Public Schools serves 1,350 high-need students in the small town of Stilwell, Oklahoma, "The Most Cherokee Community in the USA" and the poorest township in the state. **Cherokee Roots** will promote educational equity and adequacy in resources and opportunity in a community where the Census Bureau's Small Income and Poverty Estimates show 40.5% of youth live in poverty. New choices offered for families and students will include:

- New Opportunities to enroll in a Cultural Heritage and Preservation STEM class
- New Opportunities to Study Cherokee Language and Culture for College Credit
- New Opportunities to enroll in STEM courses building relevant workforce skills
- ➤ New opportunities to explore the STEM workforce and Cherokee Culture workforce
- Ongoing Assessments to Inform Instruction / Identify Students Needing Support
- Expanded Focus on College Preparation and Parental Inclusion
- Expanded extracurricular programming focused on STEM and the Cherokee culture

Lead Applicant Stilwell Public Schools receives funding from the Bureau of Indian Education and is eligible to participate in the Demonstration Grants program under Competitive Preference Priorities 1 and 3. The **overall goal** of the **Cherokee Roots** is to prepare Stilwell students for post-secondary success. **Cherokee Roots** will place an additional four experienced, fully certified, in-field, and effective educators in Stilwell Public Schools, including STEM Career Teacher, Cherokee Language, and Culture Teacher, Cherokee STEM Teacher, and College Success Coach. **Cherokee Roots** program components, designed to reflect gaps and weaknesses identified through formal Needs Assessment efforts, will be offered to all Stilwell Middle School and Stilwell High School students. Against all measurements, Stilwell youth are underrepresented. **Cherokee Roots** was designed to address these disadvantages, providing new

opportunities for students to connect with the histories and traditions of their Cherokee culture, and prepare

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Absolute Priority: Native Youth Community Projects

Defined Local Area: Stilwell, Oklahoma, "The Most Cherokee Community in the USA."

Goal: The **overall goal** of the **Cherokee Roots** is to prepare Stilwell students for post-secondary success.

Evidence: Needs Assessment was completed in December 2021, reviewing barriers (in and out of

school), local community resources and opportunities, and beneficial local policies/practices/providers

that could support efforts to prepare Stilwell students for post-secondary success.

Focused on Barriers / Opportunities with Community-Based Strategy and Measurable Objectives:

Strategies have been aligned directly to local needs and will tangibly link classroom learning with cultural

expectations and workforce opportunities. Six Objectives and 11 Measurable Outcomes have been

identified.

Partnership: Stilwell Public Schools receives funding from the BIE and will serve as the lead, in

partnership with the Cherokee Nation, Boys & Girls Clubs of Adair County, Carl Albert State College,

and Northeastern State University. Stilwell Public Schools is an experienced grantee.

Competitive Preference Priority 1: Tribal Lead Applicants (0 or 5 p oints)

Lead Applicant Stilwell Public Schools receives funding from the Bureau of Indian Education and is

eligible to participate in the Demonstration Grants program.

Competitive Preference Priority 3: Promoting Equity (0 to 7 points)

Stilwell Public Schools serves 1,350 high-need students in the small town of Stilwell, Oklahoma, "The

Most Cherokee Community in the USA" and the poorest township in the state. Cherokee Roots will

promote educational equity and adequacy in resources and opportunity in a community where the Census

Bureau's Small Income and Poverty Estimates show 40.5% of youth live in poverty. New choices

offered for families and students will include:

New Opportunities to enroll in a Cultural Heritage and Preservation STEM class

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New Opportunities to Study Cherokee Language and Culture for College Credit

New Opportunities to enroll in STEM courses building relevant workforce skills

➤ New opportunities to explore the STEM workforce and Cherokee Culture workforce

Ongoing Assessments to Inform Instruction / Identify Students Needing Support

Expanded Focus on College Preparation and Parental Inclusion

Expanded extracurricular programming focused on STEM and the Cherokee culture

Settings: Middle School, High School, Out-of-School-Time

Cherokee Roots will place an additional four experienced, fully certified, in-field, and effective

educators in Stilwell Public Schools, including STEM Career Teacher, Cherokee Language, and Culture

Teacher, Cherokee STEM Teacher, and College Success Coach. Job listings will be posted through

multiple venues in English, Cherokee, and Spanish to reach a wide audience of potentially qualified

applicants, including postings online, in area banks and community centers, in local newspapers, at local

colleges, and through online job posting sites. Mentors, tutors, teachers, and adult role models that have

overcome barriers similar to those that the students they serve are facing are frequently able to make a

stronger connection and promote a more lasting impact. To this end, Stilwell Public Schools encourages

applications from local professionals with a Native American or low-income background. This policy

further supports Stilwell's commitment to hiring individuals that exemplify the qualities that are

promoted among students, including overcoming poverty, pursuing higher education, and giving back to

the community. When recruiting staff and volunteers, Stilwell administrators describe in detail the

purpose and objectives of the initiative, including challenges, barriers, and gaps in services that are

targeted through planned programming. It is anticipated that this comprehensive description will draw in

more significant numbers of individuals that have faced obstacles similar to those described, invigorated

by the opportunity to give back to their community in a format that puts their unique experiences to

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positive use. Applicants for positions that come from areas beyond the targeted rural community will also be considered as appropriate, with the understanding that new faces diversify the community, refresh programming, and bring new ideas that enrich all involved. Due to the geographic rurality of the Stilwell community, and the unique skills needed to teach Cherokee culture and the Tsalagi language, it is not anticipated that non-residents will apply for open positions. Competitive candidates for both the Cherokee Language and Culture Teacher and the Cherokee STEM Teacher will have life experience with Cherokee culture and the Tsalagi language. Importantly, Cherokee Roots will continue and advance the comprehensive culture and language program offered for secondary students, taking the "next logical step" by offering new opportunities for advanced high school students to teach introductory Tsalagi language to elementary students enrolled in nearby school districts that border the Cherokee Nation but do not currently offer culture and language-specific instruction due to a lack of qualified educators. Students from neighboring districts are regularly bussed to Stilwell facilities for band, sports, agriculture, and extracurriculars. A new Tsalagi language internship course, offered in coordination with Northeastern State University, will doubly benefit the region, expanding the reach of introductory Tsalagi language instruction while enhancing the relevance of striving for Tsalagi fluency, expanding the credibility of Cherokee-focused coursework, increasing cultural pride, and building a pipeline of future Cherokee educators at Stilwell High School.

(a) Need for project (10 points).

(1) Gaps or weaknesses in services, infrastructure, or opportunities (Up to 4 points)

Stilwell Public Schools serves 1,350 high-need students in the small town of Stilwell, "The Most Cherokee Community in the USA," and the most impoverished township in the State of Oklahoma. It is critical that school-based services prepare students for gainful employment and fulfilling careers in the community, with options that students perceive as **relevant**, **culturally respectful**, and **enticing**. A

district reshaping, which began with the appointment of Superintendent in 2011, has decreased the dropout rate, reported at 25.4% in 2010, to just 6.3% in 2020. Despite this progress, Stilwell students continue to struggle academically and routinely lament a perceived disconnect between classroom learning and the "real world." Annually, more than 53% of Stilwell's college enrollees are required to take at least one remedial course in Math, English, Science, or Reading – compared to a state average of 39% of College Freshmen. This contributes to the equally high college drop-out rate among Stilwell graduates, who are forced to pay for non-credit bearing instruction and run out of financial aid before graduation.

Cherokee Roots program components, designed to reflect gaps and weaknesses identified through formal Needs Assessment efforts, will be offered to all Stilwell Middle School and Stilwell High School students. All Stilwell students are rural. SPS has universal Free Lunch eligibility at all schools. Approximately 74% of students are of Cherokee descent, and another 10% of students are Hispanic. Over 28% of Stilwell students receive Special Education Services. More than one-in-four Stilwell students live at home with parents who have not earned a high school diploma. Against all measurements, Stilwell youth are underrepresented. Cherokee Roots was designed to address these disadvantages, providing new opportunities for students to connect with the histories and traditions of their Cherokee culture, and prepare for a future career.

Stilwell youth are underserved and without appropriate opportunities to "connect their two worlds." Effective education for Native American students focuses on the effective blending of Indigenous and Western knowledge, enhancing student connection to content, boosting social and academic outcomes, and supporting whole-child instruction that allows younger generations to seize their inherent potential. Designed in direct coordination with the Cherokee Nation and Northeastern University to embrace evidence-based best practices, **Cherokee Roots** will blend Indigenous and Western knowledge systems

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within Stilwell Middle and High Schools, embracing a balanced, comprehensive, and culturally aligned curricular framework that adapts to local circumstances and drastically improves outcomes for youth.

Opportunities	Rationale for Inclusion of Service Choice
Cherokee	SPS will hire a full-time Cultural STEM teacher, supported by contractual partner
Heritage and	Sevenstar Spatial Media Lab who will host the virtual server and provide VR support.
Preservation	The Cherokee Nation will provide support for cultural alignment. This course will
STEM	blend local histories and traditions with cutting-edge STEM technologies,
	breathing new relevance into classroom learning while building student pride and
	resilience related to their heritage.
	Needs / Gaps / Weaknesses Addressed:
	*Improve Science and Math competencies
	*Increase student resilience and pride
	*Strengthen perceived connection between classroom learning and culture
Cherokee	SPS will hire a full-time Cherokee Language teacher to implement a vertically aligned
Language and	four-year Cherokee Lifeways and Language curriculum that will result in transferrable
Culture	college credit upon graduation. The Cherokee Nation will provide support for cultural
	alignment. These courses will embrace the Tsalagi language, building a new
	generation of speakers. It will also provide college credits to students wishing to
	pursue post-secondary classes, and internship opportunities as advanced students
	teach Introductory Tsalagi to local elementary students.
	Needs / Gaps / Weaknesses Addressed:
	*Improve English Language Arts competencies
	*Increase student resilience and pride

	*Strengthen perceived connection between classroom learning and culture
STEM Career	Stilwell Public Schools will add hands-on STEM elective coursework for middle and
Teacher	high school students. Aligned directly to local workforce applications, STEM courses
	will support students as they explore drone piloting; PC building/repair/soldering /
	electrical circuit repair; Computer Assisted Design; and Ecology. Courses offer
	relevant, high-interest STEM content aligned directly with local workforce
	demand, boosting student motivation and enrollment in challenging coursework.
	Needs / Gaps / Weaknesses Addressed:
	*Improve Science and Math competencies
	*Increase student resilience, pride, and employability
College	Stilwell Public Schools will staff the College & Career Resource Center with a full-time
Success Coach	College and Career Coach to provide small group and one-on-one guidance as students
	search for post-secondary programs, apply for admission, pursue scholarships, build
	resumes, and prepare to take necessary standard examinations.
	Needs / Gaps / Weaknesses Addressed:
	*Support students as they consider multiple post-secondary options
	*Increase affordability of post-secondary opportunities
	*Increase post-secondary enrollment (vocational, college, university)
Family Night	Stilwell Public Schools will coordinate with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Adair County
Cultural	and the Cherokee Nation to offer evening cultural programming for youth and families
Enrichment	to engage in together, in a traditional multi-generational format. Family Night will
	place a spotlight on Cherokee heritage, creating fun and engaging opportunities to
	embrace the traditional local culture for students, parents, staff, and community

representatives.
Needs / Gaps / Weaknesses Addressed:
*Strengthen home and school connections.
*Build student resilience and pride.

(2) The magnitude of the need for services. (Up to 3 points)

Stilwell Schools are among the lowest-performing in Oklahoma. All campuses have been identified through the Elementary Secondary Education Act as being "In Need of Improvement". In 2018-2019, Stilwell Middle and Stilwell High were assigned an Overall Grade of "D". Stilwell Elementary earned a "C". Encompassed within the "School Turnaround" category of the Office of School Support, all Stilwell campuses have designed School Improvement Plans to identify the specific gaps and weaknesses in current offerings and design action steps to create sustainable change. Our young people are at risk of educational failure – 51% of high school students failed one or more End-of-Course exams required for graduation in 2018. Intensive efforts are underway to promote better outcomes for students, but much work remains to prepare Stilwell youth for post-secondary success.

(3) Services / address the needs of students at risk of educational failure. (Up to 3 points)

Cherokee Roots will bring desperately needed service options to Stilwell Middle and High School students, addressing the need to fully embrace Cherokee heritage and traditions to enhance academic opportunities in a meaningful way. Programming has been designed to showcase the deep histories and traditions of the Cherokee people, building pride and resilience through increased exposure to both language and culture. Students and their families will have the opportunity to enroll in these new service choices, which will be delivered largely by Stilwell Public Schools with support from outside experts. Specific needs to be addressed include:

Opportunities	Needs Addressed

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Cherokee Heritage	*Improve Math and Science competencies
and Preservation	*Increase student resilience and pride
STEM	*Strengthen perceived connection between classroom learning and culture
Cherokee Language	*Improve English Language Arts competencies
and Culture	*Increase student resilience and pride
	*Strengthen perceived connection between classroom learning and culture
STEM Career	*Improve Science and Math competencies
Teacher	*Strengthened perceived relevance of classroom instruction
	*Increase student resilience, pride, and employability
College Success	*Support students as they consider multiple post-secondary options
Coach	*Increase affordability of post-secondary opportunities
	*Increase post-secondary enrollment (vocational, college, university)
Family Night	*Strengthen home and school connection.
Cultural Enrichment	*Build student resilience and pride.

(b) Quality of project design (37 points).

(1) Design for implementing and evaluating will result in information to guide possible replication of project, including information about the effectiveness of the approach. (Up to 10 points)

Stilwell Public Schools will contract with a professional External Evaluator. Dr. PhD-level, published researcher with extensive evaluation experience working with Native American student populations, and a long history of successful collaboration with Stilwell Public Schools. The Project Director will submit monthly qualitative and quantitative data sets, and the External Evaluator will create Quarterly Progress Reports that showcase movement toward goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes. Quarterly Progress Reports will enable the **Cherokee Roots** Advisory Council to leverage

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real-time data to drive the continuous performance feedback loop. All data, including student level, grade level, and school-level results will be coded for anonymity. In addition to project staff and Stilwell administrators, members of the **Cherokee Roots** Advisory Council will include representatives from the following groups/agencies: teachers, parents, students, the Cherokee Nation, Northeastern University, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Adair County. All Quarterly Progress Reports will become the basis for evaluating performance feedback to refine, strengthen, and improve the project approach as appropriate. School-based members of the Advisory Council will meet monthly, with the full Advisory Council meeting quarterly.

Across the nation, school districts struggle to promote high levels of achievement among Native American student populations. All Quarterly Progress Reports, action plans resulting from Advisory Council meetings, and annual reports will be compiled into a Project Blueprint for widespread dissemination. The Project Blueprint will showcase lessons learned, project impact, and the specific strategies undertaken to achieve documented results. It will be made available for download on the Stilwell Public Schools website and shared throughout the region to support knowledge exchange among the Tribes of America's Midwest.

(2) The extent to which the goals, objectives, and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clearly specified and measurable. (Up to 5 points)

The **overall goal** of the **Cherokee Roots** is to prepare Stilwell students for post-secondary success.

Measurable Outcomes will be monitored to ensure appropriate progress each quarter, providing ample opportunity for the Advisory Council to adjust and modify program implementation processes based on real-time data.

Objective	Measurable outcomes
Objective #1: Strengthen	1a. Enroll at least 125 students in the new Cherokee Heritage STEM

local capacity to infuse	course annually (a curriculum that features hands-on and applied	
academic instruction with	mathematics and science concepts).	
culturally relevant	1b. Enroll at least 125 students in Cherokee Language and Cherokee	
curricular elements	Lifeways culture courses annually, including the new Advanced Tsaligi	
	with internship opportunities.	
Related Data: Course enrolls	ment numbers, student attendance, course grades, satisfaction surveys	
Objective #2: Increase the	2a. Enroll at least 125 students in the new Cherokee Heritage and	
percentage of Stilwell	Preservation STEM courses annually (a curriculum that features hands-	
students who meet or	on and applied mathematics and science concepts).	
exceed proficiency	2b. Enroll at least 125 students in the new STEM Workforce courses	
standards in science on	annually (featuring drone piloting; PC building/repair/soldering /	
standardized assessments.	electrical circuit repair; Computer Assisted Design; and Ecology)	
	2c. The number of Stilwell students who meet or exceed proficiency	
	standards in science, as measured by standardized assessments, will	
	increase by 3% during each year of the project when compared to 2020-	
	2021 baseline data.	
Related Data: Course enrollment numbers, student attendance, course grades, state assessments		
Objective #3: Increase the	3a. Enroll at least 125 students in Cherokee Language and Culture	
percentage of students who	courses annually (an engaging curriculum that features literacy).	
meet or exceed proficiency	3b. The number of students who meet or exceed proficiency standards	
standards in reading on	in reading, as measured by standardized assessments, will increase by	
standardized assessments	3% during each year of the project when compared to 2020-2021	
	baseline data.	

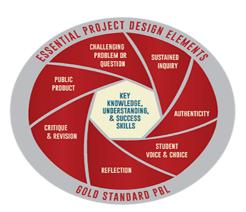
Related Data: Course enrolls	Related Data: Course enrollment numbers, student attendance, course grades, satisfaction surveys		
Objective #4: Increase the	4a. Annually, at least 125 students will take part in college preparatory		
number of Stilwell students	services provided through the College & Career Resource Center.		
who pursue post-secondary	4b. Annually, at least 95% of Grade 11 and Grade 12 students will take		
STEM studies	part in quarterly, mandatory College & Career Resource Center visits		
	(parents invited).		
	4c. In Year One, at least 10 Stilwell students will indicate their intent to		
	pursue post-secondary STEM studies (15 in Year Two and 20 in Year		
	Three) when completing Future Aspiration Surveys.		
Related Data: Student attend	lance, Future Aspiration Surveys, C&CRC sign-in sheets/staff logs		
Objective #5: Expand	3a. Annually, at least 650 Stilwell students will participate in additional		
cultural and educational	programming options.		
options for rural and			
isolated youth			
Related Data: Student attendance, student satisfaction surveys, behavioral data			
Objective #6: Strengthen	4a. Annually, at least 200 youth will participate in Family Night		
the family and school	activities with members of their household.		
connection	4b. Annually, at least 85% of parents will indicate the quality of		
	learning and program options offered to meet their children's needs,		
	based on Satisfaction Surveys.		
Related Data: Student / Family attendance, parent, and student satisfaction surveys			

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(3) Thorough, high-quality review of the relevant literature, a high-quality plan for project implementation, and the use of appropriate methodological tools to ensure successful achievement of project objectives. (Up to 7 points)

Literature Review - Evidence Base for Cherokee Roots

<u>Culturally Relevant Courses</u>: In terms of strong theory, a large and growing body of research from diverse cultural settings documents the academic benefits of approaches that systematically include home and community cultural practices integral to the school curriculum. In the most comprehensive review to



date of the research on improving Native American / Native

Alaskan students' academic performance, William Demmert, the

first deputy commissioner for the U.S. Office of Indian education,

noted the importance of Native cultural programs "in motivating

students, promoting a positive sense of identity and self, stimulating

positive attitudes about school and others...and supporting

improved academic performance." A review of multiple studies found strong empirical evidence that cultural connections enhance students' academic and behavioral outcomes. Native American children achieve greater success when schools are perceived to be culturally relevant places. Pringing Cherokee Language instructional opportunities will strengthen this impact. Learning a foreign language correlates with higher academic achievement on standardized tests.

STEM Workforce: SPS will bring inquiry-based learning in the sciences, seamlessly combining math and science skills into Project-Based Learning opportunities that truly connect with students, bringing the "real world" to their studies, integrating virtual reality, 3D printing, computer coding, and programming, and unique drone flight, ecology, and CAD opportunities. vi Stilwell will include all elements of the Gold Standard PBL, as established by the NEA. vii

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College Preparation: Quarterly meetings with Grade 11 and 12 students and their families will support

Best Practices in promoting college enrollment and successful graduation. viii

© College Matching: Counseling students to research, apply to, and attend schools that are a good

match for them academically, socially, and financially, and have high graduation rates and strong

support structures in place for first-generation, low-income students

© Financial Aid and Scholarships: Engaging students and families, from as early as middle school,

with information and tools that position them to be active participants in searching for and acquiring

financial aid and scholarship resources for their college experience

Research shows it is critical for low-income, potential first-generation college students to receive

structured, formal support from their high school counselors to promote prepared enrollment leading to a

viable career pathway.ix

Implementation Plan

Cherokee Roots will prepare Stilwell students for post-secondary success. Strategies will include:

> Hiring a full-time Cultural STEM educator to lead Cherokee Heritage and Preservation STEM

courses, reaching at least 125 students annually with unique coursework that blends applied math and

science concepts with Cherokee culture as students navigate the virtual reality server to create a

historic Cherokee village in the digital realm.

Hiring a full-time Cherokee Language educator to lead a new vertically aligned four-year Cherokee

Lifeways and Language curriculum that will result in transferrable college credit upon graduation.

Courses will build a new generation of speakers, providing college credits, creating internship

opportunities, and leveraging student skills to expand Introductory Tsalagi to nearby school districts.

Services will reach at least 125 students annually and strengthen a new pipeline of future Tsalagi

language instructors.

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Hiring a full-time STEM educator to lead new STEM elective coursework at the middle and high

school aligned to local workforce applications, including drone piloting, PC building/repair/soldering

electrical circuit repair, Computer Assisted Design, and Ecology, reaching at least 125 students

annually.

Hiring a full-time College Success Coach to expand offerings in the College & Career Resource

Center will lead small group and one-on-one guidance, as well as regular post-secondary preparation

meetings with students and families, supporting career search/college and vocational training

search/admissions/scholarships/resumes /standardized assessment preparation and tasks.

Implementing quarterly Family Night Cultural Enrichment events, in coordination with the Cherokee

Nation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Adair County, to offer cultural programming in a multi-

generational format as families engage in and embrace traditional local culture.

A project timeline follows where requested, please cross-reference for further implementation plans.

Methodological Tools

Stilwell Public Schools adheres to a continuous improvement feedback loop model for all grant-

funded programs. This includes monthly data submissions for qualitative and quantitative measures

related to long-term objectives, and Quarterly Progress Reports compiled by an External Evaluator to

showcase benchmark attainment and movement towards project goals. The formative assessment process

provides real-time data that informs the continuous improvement feedback loop, proactively identifying

challenges, gaps and weaknesses and preparing the Advisory Council to nimbly adjust to support full

attainment of stated goals and objectives both on time and within budget.

(4) Rationale (as defined in this notice). (Up to 10 points)

Logic Model

Goal: Prepare Stilwell students for post-secondary success.

Inputs: 1.0 FTE Cultural STEM educator; 1.0 FTE Cherokee Language educator; 1.0 FTE STEM educator; 1.0 FTE College Success Coach; 0.25 FTE Project Director; Curricula (Cherokee Heritage and Preservation; Cherokee Lifeways; Cherokee Language; STEM Electives (Piloting, Computer Science, CAD, Ecology); Partnerships with the Cherokee Nation, Boys & Girls Clubs of Adair County, Northeastern University

Objectives: *Strengthen local capacity to infuse academic instruction with culturally relevant curricular elements; Enroll at least 125 students in each new opportunity (STEM Workforce, Cherokee Heritage STEM, Cherokee Lifeways and Language) *Increase the percentage of Stilwell students who meet or exceed proficiency standards in science on standardized assessments by at least 3% annually; *Increase the percentage of students who meet or exceed proficiency standards in reading on standardized assessments by at least 3% annually; *Increase the number of Stilwell students who pursue post-secondary STEM studies; Reach at least 125 youth annually with post-secondary preparation services; *Provide targeted post-secondary preparation to 95% of Grade 11 & 12 students annually

Outcomes: *Improve Science and Math competencies; *Improve English Language Arts competencies; Increase student resilience and pride; *Strengthen perceived connection between classroom learning and culture; *Support students as they consider multiple post-secondary options; *Increase affordability of post-secondary opportunities; *Increase post-secondary enrollment (vocational, college, university); *Strengthen home and school connection; *Expand cultural and educational options for rural youth.

Research-Base: *Native American children achieve greater success when schools are perceived to be culturally relevant places.^x; *Research shows it is critical for low-income, potential first-generation college students to receive structured, formal support from their high school counselors to promote prepared enrollment leading to a viable career pathway.^{xi}; STEM coursework will include all elements of the Gold Standard PBL, as established by the NEA.^{xii}

(5) Evaluation will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible. (Up to 5 points)

As described, Stilwell Public Schools will contract with a professional External Evaluator. Dr.

Or.

is a PhD-level, published researcher with extensive evaluation experience working with Native American student populations, and a long history of successful collaboration with Stilwell Public Schools. The Project Director will submit monthly qualitative and quantitative data sets, and the External Evaluator will create Quarterly Progress Reports that showcase movement toward goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes. QPRs will enable the **Cherokee Roots** Advisory Council (comprised of project leaders, parents, students, and representatives from the Cherokee Nation and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Adair County), to leverage real-time data to drive the continuous performance feedback loop. All data, including student level, grade level, and school-level results will be coded for anonymity. All QPRs will become the basis for evaluating performance feedback to refine, strengthen, and improve the project approach as appropriate. School-based members of the Advisory Council will meet monthly, with the full Advisory Council meeting quarterly.

Data Set	Collection Timeline
Student Course Enrollment	Twice Annually
Student Attendance	Monthly
Course Grades	Quarterly
State Assessments (ELA, Math, Science)	Annually
Number of Stilwell students completing Tsaligi internships	Quarterly
Number of students impacted by Introductory Tsaligi classes	Monthly
College & Career Resource Center guidance schedule	Monthly
Student / Parent Attendance at C&CRC Sessions	Quarterly
Student Satisfaction Surveys, Future Aspiration Surveys	Twice Annually

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Parent Satisfaction Surveys	Twice Annually
Family Night Attendance	Quarterly

(c) Quality of project personnel (12 points).

(1) The extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented. (Up to 6 points)

Stilwell Public Schools invites and encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have been traditionally underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. This is true for school faculty, administrators, and staff, as well as for members of the Board of Education and volunteers. As appropriate, job listings will be posted through multiple venues in English, Cherokee, and Spanish in order to reach a wide audience of potentially qualified applicants, including postings online, in area banks and community centers, in local newspapers, at local colleges, and through online job posting sites.

Mentors, tutors, teachers, and adult role models that have overcome barriers like those that the students they serve are facing are frequently able to make a stronger connection and promote a more lasting impact. To this end, Stilwell Public Schools encourages applications from local professionals with a Native American or low-income background. This policy further supports Stilwell's commitment to hiring individuals that exemplify the qualities that are promoted among students, including overcoming poverty, pursuing higher education, and giving back to the community. When recruiting staff and volunteers, Stilwell administrators describe in detail the purpose and objectives of the initiative, including challenges, barriers, and gaps in services that are targeted through planned programming. It is anticipated that this comprehensive description will draw in more significant numbers of individuals that have faced obstacles like those described, invigorated by the opportunity to give back to their community in a format that puts their unique experiences to positive use. Applicants for positions that come from areas beyond

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the targeted rural community will also be considered appropriate, with the understanding that new faces diversify the community, refresh programming, and bring new ideas that enrich all involved. Due to the geographic rurality and the unique skills needed to teach Tsalagi language and culture, it is not anticipated that non-residents will apply for open positions.

(2) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director or principal investigator. (Up to 3 points)

Key personnel (for those hired) and minimum qualifications for those to be hired are described below.

Please Note: All persons working with youth will have to pass a thorough background and sex offender registry check and fingerprinting.

Project Director: Cherokee Roots will be led by Project Director — the Stilwell High School Principal with the proven organizational and outreach skills necessary to oversee a project of this size and magnitude. A dedicated educator, — has overseen Stilwell's grant initiatives for the past three years. — has proven to be adept at planning and organizing school-based events, making him a logical choice to serve as **Project Director** for this initiative. Resume appended as required.

(3) Qualifications, relevant training and experience, of key project personnel. (Up to 3 points)

Superintendent: Superintendent will work alongside Dr. , the External Evaluator.

Superintendent oversees Federal programs districtwide, including the Johnson-O'Malley

Program, Title VII, Native American Children in Schools, and Cherokee Nation Tag Money reporting.

Resumes are appended as required.

Cherokee Language and Culture Teacher: This position will be filled upon award notification. At minimum, the successful candidate will be a fluent speaker of the Cherokee language with a valid teaching certification with no less than two years of experience with Cherokee middle and high school

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students. In alignment with Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, SPS will give Indian preference to the greatest extent feasible.

Cultural STEM Teacher: This position will be filled upon award notification. At a minimum, the successful candidate will be certified as a high school science teacher with no less than two years of experience with Cherokee high school students. In alignment with Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, SPS will give Indian preference to the greatest extent feasible.

(d) Quality of project services (10 points).

(1) Services involve the collaboration of appropriate partners. (Up to 5 points)

There are limited resources in Stilwell Oklahoma, and to maximize impact of new and expanded programming, it is critical that partnerships are formed and strengthened. This enhances offerings, builds community support, and promotes long-term sustainability. A partnership agreement is signed by all parties and included in the Appendix as required.

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Cherokee Nation: The Cherokee Nation will provide support for all cultural services to be expanded and

offered to Stilwell students. This will include direct support for cultural teachers as well as offering

culturally aligned enrichment opportunities during Parent Night activities.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Adair County: The Club will provide support for Parent Night events and will

work with Stilwell Public Schools to embrace Cherokee heritage through strategic programming and

activities in before and after school programming.

Northeastern State University: NSU will offer dual-credit opportunities to Stilwell students completing

advanced Cherokee Language and Lifeways cultural courses.

Carl Albert State College: CASC will provide ACT Prep and practice test scenarios and financial aid

workshops. CASC will also provide dual-credit to Stilwell students completing STEM courses.

(2) The extent to which the services to be offered would meet the needs of the local population, as

demonstrated by an analysis of community-level data, including direct input from parents and

families of Indian children and youth. (Up to 5 points)

Cherokee Roots was designed based on formal Needs Assessment results gathered in December

2021. This included the review of school-level and community-level needs from a variety of data sources.

School Report Card data released by the Oklahoma Department of Education shows Stilwell youth

perform below their peers statewide on standardized assessments in ELA, Math, and Science. Fewer

Stilwell students graduate from high school, and among those that pursue post-secondary education,

Stilwell graduates are more likely to require remedial support. Stilwell and surrounding Adair County is

identified among the top 5% of "Distressed Communities" nationwide by the federal Distressed

Communities Index, as needs grew from 84.7 of 100 in 2000, to 90.8 of 100 today. XIII Stilwell exceeds

national averages for residents without high school diplomas, poverty, adults not working, and housing

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vacancy. While these statistics show the overwhelming need of the community, local programming reflects the current and immediate needs of Stilwell parents and students.

Surveys distributed to parents and students informed program design. Middle and high school students consistently reported the perception that "classroom learning was not relevant to the real world." Students pursuing Cherokee language and culture electives requested more advanced course offerings for future years. Students and parents at all levels K-12 sought additional opportunities for fun family events. Students consistently ranked STEM coursework with project-based learning opportunities favorably among potential electives. Parents and students alike have voiced the need for guidance and support related to post-secondary preparation, from career search through the admissions process for vocational or college opportunities and everything in-between — a significant need in a community where the vast majority of adults have not pursued post-secondary training of any kind.

Opportunities	Needs Addressed	
Cherokee Heritage	*Improve Math and Science competencies	
and Preservation	*Increase student resilience and pride	
STEM	*Strengthen perceived connection between classroom learning and culture	
Leveraging Commun	ity Resources: Stilwell Public Schools will add this course to the catalogue and	
schedule. The Guidanc	e Department will encourage student enrollment. Partnership with the Cherokee	
Nation will support cu	ltural relevance of course content. Coordination with Sevenstar Spatial Media	
Lab will provide access to virtual serve and VR support.		
Cherokee Language	*Improve English Language Arts competencies	
and Culture	*Increase student resilience and pride	
	*Strengthen perceived connection between classroom learning and culture	
Leveraging Community Resources: Stilwell Public Schools will add this course to the catalogue and		

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schedule. The Guidance Department will encourage student enrollment. Partnership with the Cherokee			
Nation will support cultural relevance of course content. Partnership with NSU will result in			
transferrable college	transferrable college credit opportunities. Students will gain internship experience teaching		
Introductory Tsalagi to	local elementary students. Coordination with		
STEM Career	*Improve Science and Math competencies		
Teacher	*Strengthened perceived relevance of classroom instruction		
	*Increase student resilience, pride, and employability		
Leveraging Commun	nity Resources: New STEM courses will be added to the catalogue and		
schedule. The Guidano	ce Department will encourage student enrollment. Courses (drone piloting; PD		
building/repair/soldering	ng/electrical circuit repair; CAD; and Ecology) were selected based on local		
workforce demands.			
College Success	*Support students as they consider multiple post-secondary options		
Coach	*Increase affordability of post-secondary opportunities		
	*Increase post-secondary enrollment (vocational, college, university)		
Leveraging Commun	Leveraging Community Resources: Northeastern State University and Carl Albert State College will		
support activities, offering ACT Prep and practice test scenarios and financial aid workshops.			
Family Night	*Strengthen home and school connection.		
Cultural Enrichment	*Build student resilience and pride.		
Leveraging Community Resources: The Boys & Girls Clubs of Adair County will support Family			
Night events, contributing staff as appropriate.			

(e) Quality of the management plan (24 points).

(1) Management Plan, Timeline. (Up to 14 points)

YEAR ONE													
Activity	Responsible	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Post job announcement and	Superintend	X	X									-	
hire Cultural STEM Teacher;	ent												
Cherokee Language and													
Culture Teacher (CLCT);													
College Success Coach;													
STEM Teacher, Hire													
candidates							V				\$ c	8. 8	
Order technology for Cultural	Project	X											
STEM course and STEM	Director												
electives		-		-			-			-			
Advisory Council meets to review QPRs, guide program,	Project Director	X		X			X			X			X
support sustainability	Director												
Design baseline surveys,	External	X	X						302 3		F:	St St	
collect baseline data	Evaluator												
Submit QPR	Evaluator			X	96.		X		\$ 5	X		8 - 1	X
Host Parent Night to introduce	Project	X										9 - 5	
families to all new and	Director												
upcoming Cherokee Roots													
services													
Install new technologies for	Technology	X	X										

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Cultural STEM course, STEM	Department												
electives													
Students complete initial	Project	X	X										
benchmark assessments	Director												
Enroll students in new courses	Project	X	X								-		
(Cherokee Heritage and	Director												
Preservation STEM; STEM													
electives; Cherokee Language													
and Lifeways)													
Family Night Held, outreach	PD, Project			X	2 2		X		X		X		10
through notices, email, text	Staff, BGC												
announcement app	Adair												
	County												
Students lead Introductory	CLCT			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tsaligi classes for elementary													
students													
Grade 11 and 12 students and	College		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
families complete quarterly	Success												
mandatory College & Career	Coach												
Resource Center visits													
Advisory Council meets to	Project		· ·								<u>.</u>		X
review QPR and End of Year	Director												
Report, finalize Action Plan													

Year 1													0
	YEAR	RS T	WO-	-FI	Æ	4				4	S 20		
Activity	Responsible	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Order updated and new	Project	X											
technology for Cultural STEM	Director												
course and STEM electives	1000 1100												
Advisory Council meets to	Project	X		X			X			X			X
review QPRs, guide program,	Director												
support sustainability													
Design any new baseline	External	X	X		5					9	(c);		10
surveys, collect baseline data	Evaluator												
Submit QPR	Evaluator			X			X			X	9		X
Host Parent Night to introduce	Project	X			-								
families to all new and	Director												
upcoming Cherokee Roots													
services													
Install any new technologies	Technology	X	X		2								
for Cultural STEM course,	Department												
STEM electives													
Students complete initial	Project	X	X		3		18 3		18		8 2		ėj
benchmark assessments	Director												
Enroll students in new courses	Project	X	X		8						8 2		6-
(Cherokee Heritage and	Director												

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Preservation STEM; STEM electives; Cherokee Language and Lifeways)												
Family Night Held, outreach through notices, email, text announcement app	PD, Project Staff, BGC Adair County		X			X		X		X		
Students lead Introductory Tsaligi classes for elementary students	CLCT	2 2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grade 11 and 12 students and families complete quarterly mandatory College & Career Resource Center visits	College Success Coach	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Advisory Council meets to review QPR and End of Year Report, finalize Action Plan (Years 2-5)	Project Director											X
Submit Final Evaluation Report to funder	Evaluator Project Director											X

⁽²⁾ A diversity of perspectives are brought to bear. (Up to 5 points)

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As described, representatives from multiple stakeholder groups will serve on the Cherokee Roots Advisory Council, bringing a variety of perspectives into project leadership. The full Advisory Council will meet quarterly to review Quarterly Progress Reports. In addition to project staff and Stilwell administrators, members of the Cherokee Roots Advisory Council will include representatives from the following groups/agencies: teachers, parents, students, the Cherokee Nation, Northeastern University, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Adair County. Together, the Advisory Council will leverage real-time data to drive the continuous performance feedback loop. Quarterly Progress Reports will become the basis for evaluating performance feedback to refine, strengthen, and improve the project approach as appropriate. Formal meetings will provide all Advisory Council members opportunities to contribute to project management and oversight. Additionally, Quarterly Progress Reports used to drive decision-making and inform performance feedback loop will consider satisfaction surveys collected from students and parents twice each year.

(3) The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance. (Up to 5 points)

Multiple strategies have been incorporated into Cherokee Roots to support systems-based change that will continue beyond the Federal funding period. Partnerships are crucial to success, leveraging the limited resources of the region and expanding opportunities to connect to other funding sources. The Cherokee Nation, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Adair County, Carl Albert State College, and Northeastern State University are strong partners and will continue to contribute to supporting Stilwell youth. Policy change will also be utilized, as course catalogues are updated to include new classes and opportunities. Services will be supplemental to education programs in place, and grant funding will supplement existing funding sources. These sources, however, such as Johnson O'Malley funding and BIE funding will be leveraged to support sustainability in future years. Additionally, SPS assures that the availability of funds

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for supplemental special education and related services does not affect the right of the child to receive FAPE under Part B of the IDEA or Section 504, and the respective implementing regulations.

Stilwell's youth are underserved and without appropriate opportunities to "connect their two worlds". Effective education for Native American students focuses on effective blending of traditional and Western knowledge, enhancing student connection to content, boosting social and academic outcomes, and supporting whole-child instruction that allows younger generations to seize their inherent potential. Designed in direct coordination with project partners, **Cherokee Roots** will drastically improve performance measures for Stilwell youth.

(f) Quality of the project evaluation (7 points).

(1) Feedback and assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes. (Up to 4 points)

As described, Stilwell Public Schools will partner with a contracted External Evaluator. Dr.

will be tasked with the formative and summative evaluation of **Cherokee Roots** and will create Quarterly Progress Reports that incorporate qualitative and quantitative data sets to demonstrate progress

toward goals, outcomes, and objectives and provides real-time data necessary to drive the continuous performance feedback loop. All data, including student level, grade level, and school-level results will be coded for anonymity.

Stilwell Public Schools is committed to ensuring the delivery of the highest quality products and services and continuously improving our project approach. To that end, the multi-stakeholder Advisory Council will review QPRs as a basis for evaluating performance feedback to refine, strengthen, and improve the project approach as appropriate. School-based members of the Advisory Council will meet monthly, with the full council meeting quarterly. Quarterly Progress Reports will present preliminary findings and summarize perceived trends apparent in the data analysis. Progress reporting, consistent data analysis and review, and the commitment to using a data-driven-decision-making process to improve our

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project approach continually will be critical elements that ensure the program will accomplish its set goal, objectives, and targeted outcomes. **Please Note:** Stilwell Public Schools will participate, at the request of the Secretary, in any national evaluation of this program.

(2) Evaluation will share strategies suitable for replication or testing. (Up to 3 points)

Stilwell Public Schools will contract with a qualified external evaluator to provide objective summative and formative evaluation services for Cherokee Roots. Services will include data gathering, monitoring, fidelity checks, and audits, development of summative evaluation reports, development of the annual progress report, and establishment of the formative evaluation system. Dr. will be responsible for submitting Quarterly Progress Reports, monitoring both qualitative and quantitative data sets that comprehensively illustrate the impact of project activities on all stakeholders, including students, families, staff, and partnering agencies. He will create all surveys and assessments that are projectspecific, following requirements for gathering objective data through open-ended questionnaires and nonleading surveys. Project evaluation will be continuous and ongoing throughout the Cherokee Roots project period, providing real-time qualitative and quantitative data sets that illustrate the impact of related activities on Stilwell teachers, student sub-groups, and parents. The External Evaluator will complete all data tracking, recording, and analyzing, completing Quarterly Progress Reports that highlight Cherokee STEM successes as well as areas where modifications must be made to better promote attainment of objectives. Led by the Project Director, Advisory Council will meet quarterly to review and discuss progress and potential modifications. This strategy will result in a comprehensive Action Plan for dissemination - comprised of Quarterly Progress Reports and meeting notes describing proposed and accepted activity adjustments. Ultimately, the Cherokee Roots Action Plan will become a powerful resource available for dissemination, illustrating the full impact of project activities on low-income, Native American populations, contributing to the national community's knowledge and understanding of

promote continuous improvement.

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effective strategies for this high-risk population. This will be particularly important as **Cherokee Roots** explores the impact of structured college preparation coursework, native-language instruction, high-level STEM coursework, and intensive math and science interventions – strategies that could be implemented on a wider scale if proven effective for Native populations. Quarterly Advisory Council meetings will provide structured opportunities to delve into feedback from a variety of qualitative and quantitative sources by key stakeholders and project leaders – facilitating the process of instituting project-change to

A Cherokee STEM Action Plan will be created throughout the project, including Quarterly Progress Reports with analyses of both qualitative and quantitative data (divided into significant student subgroups as appropriate), as well as meeting minutes from the Advisory Council as they determine the best course of action for project modifications as illustrated necessary by benchmark outcomes that do not align to timely objective attainment. Each QPR will include separate chapters of impact and outcome data, categorized under the major activity sets of the project, including Cherokee Heritage and Preservation STEM; Cherokee Language and Lifeways; STEM Workforce; and Post-Secondary Preparation. Combined with this narrative application, the Action Plan will serve as a blueprint for carrying out the Cherokee Roots project in any willing community. The Cherokee Roots Action Plan will become a powerful resource available for widespread dissemination, illustrating the full impact of project activities on low-income, Native American populations, contributing to the national community's knowledge and understanding of effective strategies for this high-risk population. The Cherokee Roots Action Plan will showcase lessons learned, project impact, and the specific strategies undertaken to achieve documented results. It will be made available for download on the Stilwell Public Schools website and shared throughout the region to support knowledge exchange among the Tribes of America's Midwest.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUDGET INFORMATION NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 1894-0008
Expiration Date: 09/30/2023

·····								
Name of Institution/Org	ganization				Applicants requesting ful	. , ,		
Stilwell Public S	"Project Year 1." Applicants requesting funding for multi-year grants should capplicable columns. Please read all instructions before completing form.							
			SECTION	N A - BUDGE	T SUMMARY			
			U.S. DEPART	MENT OF EI	DUCATION FUN	DS		
Budget Categories	Project Year 1 (a)	Project Year 2 (b)	Project Year 3 (c)	Project Year 4 (d)	Project Year 5 (e)	Project Year 6 (f)	Project Year 7 (g)	Total (h)
1. Personnel	226,800.00	226,800.00	226,800.00	226,800	.00 226,800.00	0		1,134,000.00
2. Fringe Benefits	43,092.00	43,092.00	43,092.00	43,092	.00 43,092.00	0		215,460.00
3. Travel	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	0	.00	0		10,500.00
4. Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	.00	0		0.00
5. Supplies	127,270.00	127,270.00	127,270.00	130,770	.00 130,770.00	0		643,350.00
6. Contractual	52,500.00	52,500.00	52,500.00	52,500	.00 52,500.00	0		262,500.00
7. Construction	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0		0.00
8. Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	.00	0		0.00
9. Total Direct Costs (lines 1-8)	453,162.00	453,162.00	453,162.00	453,162	.00 453,162.00	0		2,265,810.00
10. Indirect Costs*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0		0.00
11. Training Stipends	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0		0.00
12. Total Costs (lines 9-11)	453,162.00	453,162.00	453,162.00	453,162	.00 453,162.00	0		2,265,810.00
,	nation <i>(To Be Compl</i>	leted by Your Busine	ss Office): If you are	e requesting reimb	ursement for indirect co	osts on line 10, please	answer the following qu	uestions:
(1) Do you have a	n Indirect Cost Rate A	Agreement approved b	y the Federal governr	ment?	′es No			
(2) If yes, please p	provide the following in	nformation:		_	_			
Period Cove	red by the Indirect Co	st Rate Agreement:	From:	To:	(mm/dd/y	ууу)		
Approving Fe	ederal agency:	ED Other (ple	ase specify):					
The Indirect	Cost Rate is	<u> </u>						
		 I you do not have an a n, do you want to use t			re not a State, Local gov			under a training rate s of 2 CFR § 200.414(f).
` '	'''	•			te of 10% of budgeted s days after the date you	· ·	required by 34 CFR § 7	75.560.
(5) For Restricted	Rate Programs (chec	ck one) Are you usin	g a restricted indirect	cost rate that:				
	, ,,	Indirect Cost Rate Ag		Complies with 34 (CFR 76.564(c)(2)?	The Restricted Indire	ect Cost Rate is	%.
		one) Are you using		PR/Award # S299	A2કિ9મિરિયded in your ap	proved Indirect Cost I	Pata Agraement hossy	see it is lower than the
Is base	d on the training rate	of 8 percent of MTDC	(See EDGAR § 75.56	62(c)(4))? Or, Page e68	A ² કિંગિમેરિયded in your ap ⊢ training rate of 8 perc	cent of MTDC (See ED	GAR § 75.562(c)(4))?	ISO IL IS IOWEL CHAIL CHE